

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (New) A method for transforming image-bearing signals, derived by scanning a photographic medium, to image-bearing signals that include the relative exposure values of said photographic medium, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) transforming said image-bearing signals to density values;
- b) transforming said density values to remove the chromatic interdependencies of said values so as to produce channel-independent density values;
- c) determining a reference density vs. exposure relationship for each color channel of said photographic medium;
- d) performing at least one measurement of at least one area of minimum density of said photographic medium;
- e) forming, for each color channel, an estimated density vs. exposure relationship of said photographic medium by adjusting the density values of said reference density vs. exposure relationship according to a difference of the minimum density value of said reference density vs. exposure relationship and the measured minimum density value of said photographic medium; and
- f) transforming, for each color channel, the channel-independent density values using the corresponding estimated density vs. exposure relationship to produce image-bearing signals that include the relative exposure values of the photographic medium.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of:

g) further transforming the image-bearing signals of step f) to form standard colorimetric values, such as CIE XYZ tristimulus values or CIE 1976 L\*a\*b\* (CIELAB) values.